

Message Text

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WHITE HOUSE PLEASE PASS MOSCOW 11066 TO BRZEZINSKI PARTY
AIRCRAFT, SLUGGED FOR MR. HOLBROOK AND MR. GLEYSTEEN.

FOL RPT MOSCOW 11066 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO USUN NY
DIA WASHDC USNATO HONG KONG LONDON PARIS SINGAPORE TAIPEI
TOKYO PEKING CINCPAC 18 MAY 78 QUOTE

CONFIDENTIAL MOSCOW 11066

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: CH, UR, US, PE, PR
SUBJECT: PRIVATE SOVIET COMMENTS ON BRZEZINSKI VISIT TO
PEKING

REF: MOSCOW 11034

1. REFTEL REPORTS SHARP UPSWING IN SOVIET PUBLIC
COMMENTARY ON EVE OF BRZEZINSKI VISIT WARNING WEST AGAINST
COLLUDING WITH PRC ANTI-SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY. AS INDICATED
REFTEL, SOVIETS IN PRIVATE HAVE BEEN INQUIRING ABOUT THE
VISITS PURPOSE AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE SINO-US
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NORMALIZATION.

2. IN MAY 18 CONVERSATION BETWEEN EMBOFF AND USA INSTITUTE
ASIAN SPECIALIST VLADIMIR LUKIN AND BORIS ZANYEGIN, LUKIN
RAISED QUESTION OF BRZEZINSKI VISIT. HE OPINED THAT IT WAS
UNUSUAL FOR BRZEZINSKI AND NOT THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO
BE MAKING THE VISIT TO CHINA. AS EVERYONE KNOWS, HE

STATED, VANCE AND BRZEZINSKI HAVE DIFFERENT OUTLOOKS ON US-SOVIET RELATIONS. HE STATED THAT IN THE UNITED STATES THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO ADVOCATE THAT THE US USE RELATIONS WITH CHINA AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION. OTHERS TAKE A "GEO-POLITICAL VIEW OF HOW THE US SHOULD ACT. THUS, IF SOMETHING IS GOING WRONG FOR THE US IN ONE PART OF THE WORLD, THESE PEOPLE LOOK FOR WAYS TO APPLY COUNTER-PRESSURE IN ANOTHER PART OF THE WORLD. HE RECALLED THAT, ON THE PLANE RIDE HOME FROM LAST MAY'S VANCE-GROMYKO MEETING IN GENEVA, THE SECRETARY ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD BE MOVING THE DATE FORWARD FOR HIS 1977 PEKING VISIT FROM NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER TO AUGUST. LUKIN CONTENTED THAT, IF THE US DOES NOT OVERTLY-ATTEMPT TO PLAY THE "CHINA CARD," IT HOPES TO MAINTAIN OR DEEPEN THE BAD STATE OF SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS BY PURSUING BETTER RELATIONS WITH CHINA AND DHHEREBY ENCOURAGING PEKING GO MOVE FURTHER AWAY FROM THE SOVIET UNION.

3. COMMENT. THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SOVIET COMMENTARY ON THE EVE OF THE BRZEZINSKI VISIT ILLUSTRATES BOTH STRONG SOVIET SENSITIVITIES ABOUT POTENTIAL FOR IMPROVING SINO-US RELATIONS AND A SOVIET FRUSTRATION OVER INABILITY TO DO ANYTHIHG TO HALT OR TO NEUTRALIZE WHAT SOVIETS PERCEIVE AS THIS TREND. IF PRC DIPLOMATS STATEMENT ON POOR PROSPECTS FOR THE IL'ICHEV TALKS ARE ANY GUIDE (MOSCOW 10941), THE SOVIETS ARE NOT GOING TO BE MAKING ANY CONCESSIONS AT THE CURRENT BORDER NEGOTIATIONS. SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS ARE VERY LIKELY TO REMAIN STRAINED AND

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PRC EFFORTS TO MOBILIZE WORLD WIDE ANTI-SOVIET UNITED FRONT WILL LIKELY CONTINUE UNABATED. THIS BASIC IMMOBILIT IN THE SOVIET POSITION ON THE BORDER, AND SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS IN GENERAL LEAVE MOSCOW LITTLE FLEXIBILITY TO COUNTER IMPROVING SINO-US RELATIONS, EXCEPT THROUGH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROTESTATIONS AND WARNINGS. MATLOCK

UNQUOTE VANCE

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